UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22279
28 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I indicated in paragraph 26 of my report to the Security Council of 29 January 1991 (S/22148) that after the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) had been completed, I intended to begin contacts with the parties on the manner in which I would pursue the other tasks entrusted to me by that resolution.

These tasks envisage a political role by the Secretary-General. In particular, some of the remaining paragraphs of the resolution require me to explore certain issues in consultation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. Another paragraph requests me to examine, in consultation with those two countries as well as with other States of the region, measures to enhance the security and stability of the region.

Such tasks would, in my opinion, be facilitated by the establishment in the region and particularly in Iran and Iraq of civilian offices, which with appropriate Headquarters support would help me to carry on my work and to have a better assessment of developments in the area. I believe this is advisable not only in the context of that resolution but also in the context of the recent developments in the area.

As you know, for the reasons stated in the Observations Section of my report of 26 February 1991 on UNIIMOG (S/22263), I have decided to recommend that the mission's mandate not be extended. At the same time, the continued presence of a few military observers attached to those civilian offices which would be located in Iran and Iraq would allow the Organization to respond promptly to any request from the parties to investigate matters for which military expertise would be required. I trust that this arrangement will meet with the concurrence of the members of the Council.

I should be grateful, Mr. President, if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR

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